

Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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Meeting Minutes August 28, 2006

Attendance:

Members Present:

Bob Coen
Kathy Halliday
Stacey Hull
Gil Kennedy
Laurie Kwiedorowicz
Joan Loftus

Members Absent:

Susan Austin
Debbie Braam
Angela Barnett
Buddy Green
Councilman Dion Guthrie
Marc Weinstein

Amy Axel and Niki Biggs, who have been recommended to the County Executive to fill vacancies in the category of "individuals representing agencies serving people with disabilities", were also in attendance.

- I. Vice Chairperson Laurie Kwiedorowicz called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Commission members and visitors introduced themselves.
- II. Minutes: The minutes of the July 24, 2006 Commission meeting were approved as presented.
- III. Committee Reports:
 - A. Executive Committee:
 1. The Commission asked the adhoc Membership Committee to present their recommendations on "Associate Membership", the proposed inclusion of the Harford County Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, and the Student Representative to the



Striving for a Better Way of Life for Harford County Citizens with Disabilities

Commission at the September 25, 2006 Commission meeting. Members of the Membership Committee include: Buddy Green, Bob Coen, Laurie Kwiedorowicz, and Marc Weinstein. Gil Kennedy volunteered to assist the committee with this project.

2. The Membership Committee has not yet made a recommendation to fill the vacancy in the category of a county citizen who owns or operates a local business or who is an employee of a local business.

B. Accessibility Committee:

1. Ramps for Homeowners and Renters Program: Work continues to finalize details of the proposed ramps program with Rebuilding Together, Inc. After meeting with Rich Truitt, Chief of Building Services, Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits, it was determined that a permit would be required for each ramp. Rebuilding's partner, American Ramps, has provided a copy of their Maryland Home Improvement Commission (MHIC) License. The responsibility for annual inspection and maintenance of the ramps remains an issue to be resolved. More information to follow.
2. Housing Coalition: No new information.

C. Education Committee: No new information.

D. Government and Community Relations Committee:

1. Commission web page: Hit report was provided to members.
2. Legislative Committee: The committee will develop a Public Policy Statement for Commission review and approval. The purpose of the Public Policy Statement is to communicate the Commission's position on global issues affecting individuals with disabilities. Laurie Kwiedorowicz, Marc Weinstein, and Bob Coen are members of the committee. Nike Biggs volunteered to join the committee.

IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report: No report.

V. Old Business:

- A. Transportation Steering Committee: Work on the video on using public transportation continues; also planned are a tri-fold brochure on Harford Transit Services for persons with disabilities and a non-text based travel training booklet.
- B. Emergency Preparedness: No new information.
- C. Updating Commission on Disabilities Brochure: No new information.
- D. Harford County Public Library (HCPL) Assistive Technology Open House and Fair: The event will be held on October 7, 2006 at the Bel Air Branch of the Harford County Library. The event is co-sponsored by HCPL, the Commission on Disabilities, the Harford County Public Schools Partners for Success, and the Susquehanna Workforce Network.
- E. Harford County Town Hall Meeting (previously known as the Mental Health Town Hall meeting) will be held on December 4, 2006. The event will focus on cross-disability issues. Service providers will have exhibits and invited guests will include local elected officials and the public. More information to follow.
- F. Harford County Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities Annual Awards Ceremony and Luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 19th at noon. Nomination forms are available by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator at 410-638-3373 voice/TTY or via email at disability@harfordcountymd.gov.
- G. Voter Education/Registration Event: The Commission-sponsored event took place on July 25th at the McFaul Activity Center.
- H. Two Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) Program information sessions were held on August 3rd. Chad McCruden of Making Choices for Independent Living's Benefits Information Center provided the training.

VI. New Business: There was none.

VII. Public Comment and Announcements: Commissioner Stacey Hull shared a photograph from the Harford Business Ledger in which she appeared with a group of Habitat for Humanity volunteers.

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, September 25, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".

These minutes are available in alternative format upon request.